



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

TWO MORE MS-13 GANG MEMBERS PLACED IN ICE CUSTODY

Operation Community Shield takes violent gang members off the streets

HOUSTON — Two more Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) violent gang members were placed in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody this week as part of its nationwide Operation Community Shield initiative to target violent gangs.

Mario Del Carmen Umanzor, a citizen of El Salvador, was arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents near the Sarita, Texas, Border Patrol checkpoint June 13. He was one of seven illegal aliens riding in a van.

CBP agents turned over Umanzor to ICE custody. While ICE agents interviewed Umanzor, he admitted that he had been arrested multiple times in El Salvador for acts of violence, and for possessing a live grenade. The Salvadoran authorities convicted Umanzor and sentenced him to 11 months in jail.

Umanzor was also convicted in Virginia for possessing cocaine, and was sentenced to 16 months in prison in 2003. After completing his sentence, ICE took him into custody and deported him that same year. Umanzor now faces federal charges for illegally re-entering the U.S. after being deported. If convicted of this felony, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

ICE agents also arrested Hary Alberto Duran-Lanza yesterday in Harris County. Duran-Lanza, a Honduran national, has a lengthy criminal history, including arrests for: theft, burglary of a vehicle, unlawful possessing a weapon, evading arrest with a vehicle, and felony burglary. He has been placed into removal proceedings.

ICE agents also identified Duran-Lanza as an MS-13 gang member who operated in the Greenspoint area. Duran-Lanza had an outstanding warrant of deportation from July 2003. His deportation is eminent.

As part of a national initiative launched in March, called Operation “Community Shield,” ICE has made it a priority to identify, disrupt and dismantle violent gang organizations and prosecute their members by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available. The combination of ICE’s unique immigration and customs authorities can be employed against gang members to keep our communities safe. Operation Community Shield first targeted the most violent of the gangs, MS-13.

“These MS-13 arrests are another example of our heightened interdiction efforts being conducted along our Southern border,” said ICE Houston Special Agent-in-Charge Bob Rutt. “We won’t allow violent criminal aliens to seek refuge in our communities.”

“Criminals who commit crimes in their countries only to hide in ours while continuing their criminal lifestyles are not welcome,” said Charles Arendale, ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) field office director. “Our priority is to quickly deport all removable aliens from the country through the fair and effective enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws.”

Since Operation Community Shield began in March, ICE has apprehended more than 300 MS-13 gang members nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.